

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims

1. (Previously presented) A method for manufacturing a plant support, wherein a box shaped element is manufactured having an at least partially open wall and an upper surface, the box-shaped element being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open wall and such that the wall is soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element during use, can grow at least partially through the covering material and the wall to the outside of the plant support; and wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on the box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the surface of the box-shaped element and, during use, functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element.

2. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the box-shaped element is at least substantially manufactured from material having a mesh-shaped structure.

3. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the box-shaped element is substantially manufactured from wire material.

4. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein said covering material is manufactured from at least natural fibers and a binding agent.

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5. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material is substantially built up from coco fibers and a latex binding agent.

6. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material comprises a sheet-shaped element which is folded into a covering of the box-shaped element.

7. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, wherein the covering material is woven into the wall of the box-shaped element.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A method for cultivating plants, utilizing a plant support manufactured by a method wherein a box-shaped element is manufactured having an at least partially open wall and an upper surface, the box-shaped element being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a manner that it at least partially covers the partially open wall and such that the wall is soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box-shaped element during use, can grow at least partially through the covering material and the wall to the outside of the plant support, and wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on the box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the upper surface of the box-shaped element and, during use, functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element; and wherein the box shaped element is substantially disposed above the ground, such that the outer side of at least a longitudinal wall thereof is free, whereupon the box-shaped element is filled with soil and at least one plant is planted therein, whereupon each plant is treated such that root growth occurs, at least partly extending through the covering material, such that the ends of a

number of roots are located approximately in the outer face of the wall, and after sufficient growth of the plant, the box-shaped element with each plant is picked up and moved to another position.

10. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 9, wherein the box-shaped element in said other position is secured in or to ground.

11. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 10, wherein the box-shaped element is dug in the ground, such that roots of each plant grow outside through the plant support, into the ground, and provide for anchoring and nutrition.

12. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 10, wherein the box-shaped element is placed on the ground, such that roots of each plant can grow through a bottom of the plant support into the ground, for anchoring and nutrition.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A plant support, comprising a box-shaped element having an at least partially open wall and an upper surface, said wall being substantially covered with a biodegradable covering material selected so that roots of a plant placed in the plant support can grow through the covering material to the outside of the box-shaped element while soil poured into the box-shaped element substantially cannot pass through the covering material; and wherein a guide element is provided which, during use, extends substantially vertically above the upper surface of the box-shaped element and is connected to the box-shaped element, for guiding plants to be grown in the box-shaped element.

17. (Currently amended) [[A]] The plant support according to claim 16, wherein at least the box-shaped element is covered with a covering material which, during use, at least temporarily prevents roots growth to the outside of the box-shaped element.

18. (Currently amended) [[A]] The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the box-shaped element is covered with the covering material substantially on the inside, said covering material being composed from substantially natural fibers and a binding agent and having a relatively open structure.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) [[A]] The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the box-shaped element and the guide element are manufactured in one piece from mesh-shaped material.

22. (Currently amended) [[A]] The plant support according to claim 16, wherein the plant support is of demountable, or at least modular design.

23. (Currently amended) [[A]] The plant support according to claim 22, wherein the guide element, is detachably mountable adjacent the bottom thereof to the box-shaped element.

24. (Previously presented) A method for manufacturing a hedge comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a plurality of box-shaped elements, each having an at least partially open wall and an upper surface and each being at least partially covered with a substantially biodegradable covering material, said covering material being provided in such a

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manner that it at least partially covers the partially open wall and such that the wall is soil-proof but roots of a plant, growing in the box- shaped element during use, can grow at least partially through the covering material and the wall to the outside of the plant support, and, wherein a substantially vertically extending guide element is mounted on each box-shaped element, said guide element extending above the upper surface of the box-shaped element and, during use, functioning as a guide for a plant or plants growing in the box-shaped element;

(b) cultivating at least one plant along the vertically extending guide element of each box-shaped element by substantially disposing the box-shaped element above the ground such that the outer side of at one longitudinal wall is free, filling each box-shaped element with soil and said at least one plant, treating each plant such that root growth occurs at least partly extending through the covering material, such that the ends of a number of roots are located approximately in the outer face of the wall; and

(c) after sufficient growth of the plants is step (b), moving the box-shaped elements to a different position and juxtaposing said box-shaped elements end-to-end to form a substantially closed elongated hedge.

25. (Currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 24, wherein step (b) comprises guiding one or more a plants on both sides of the vertically extending guide element of each box-shaped element, such that the guide element is substantially covered by plants.

26. (New) A plant support, comprising a box-shaped element having an at least partially open wall and an upper surface, said wall being substantially covered with a biodegradable covering material selected so that roots of a plant placed in the plant support can

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grow through the covering material to the outside of the box-shaped element while soil poured into the box-shaped element substantially cannot pass through the covering material; wherein a guide element is provided which, during use, extends substantially vertically above the upper surface of the box-shaped element and is connected to the box-shaped element, for guiding plants to be grown in the box-shaped element, wherein the box-shaped element is substantially manufactured from wire or plastic material, wherein the biodegradable covering material is pressed into an internal surface of the box-shaped element, and wherein the guide element is substantially flat and elongated in shape and substantially manufactured from wire or plastic material.

27. (New) The plant support of claim 26, wherein the box-shaped element and the guide element are manufactured in one piece from mesh-shaped material.

28. (New) The plant support of claim 26, wherein the plant support may be juxtaposed end to end to form a substantially elongated wall against which plants can grow.